

## Exec. Committee taps three for board positions

By William H. Perkins Jr.  
Editor

Members of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) executive committee filled three key vacancies May 15 when they hired a department director, a camp manager, and a GuideStone representative.

"What we knew was going to be a fairly long and intense work day for the executive committee turned into a remarkable day of meeting with one potential new employee after another," said Jim

Futral, MBCB executive director. "As the executive committee met, heard, interviewed, and affirmed these new

leaders, the room was filled with excitement, positive affirmation, and joyful expectation.

"It was obvious that God had been at work in their lives preparing them not only for such a time as this, but for such a work as this to

which they have come. We welcome each one of them as they serve in very

diverse areas with unique gifts and great hearts."

Michael D. Lee, senior pastor of

First Church, Grenada, was elected to serve as director of the MBCB Pastor-Leadership Department, beginning June 1. He replaces the late Alan Woodward.

According to the MBCB web site, the mission of the Pastor-Leadership Development Department is "to strengthen leaders

so they can strengthen the church." Target audiences include pastors, staff, deacons, church officers, ministry assistants, church leadership teams, church committees, youth/adults in vocational guidance, and college students committed to church related vocations.

The department responds to requests from individuals, provides training on the associational level, and conducts both regional and statewide

see BOARD on p. 6



LEE



THRASH



RUTH

## CAC search committee accepting résumés

Résumés and inquiries are now being received for the position of executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission (CAC), according to search committee chairman Wayne Kimbrough, pastor of Calvary Church, Greenwood.

The CAC, an agency of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, provides Biblical perspectives on moral, social, and ethical issues. Jimmy D. Porter retired April 30, 2015, after serving as CAC executive director-treasurer for 15 years.

In addition to Kimbrough, other CAC trustees serving as members of the search committee include:

■ Roy Dabbs, pastor of Oak Grove Church, Meridian.

■ Tammy Pearson, member of First Church, Jackson.

■ Dan Robertson, associational missions director of Golden Triangle Association and member of Fairview Church, Columbus.

■ Diane Thompson, member of First Church, Brandon.

Résumés and inquiries should be mailed to Wayne Kimbrough at 912 North Park Circle, Greenwood, MS 38930 or e-mailed to wkimbroughcbe@yahoo.com.

## WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION

## WMU welcomes new director

## Townsend to head up expanding ministries

By William H. Perkins Jr.  
Editor

Cindy M. Townsend was unanimously elected May 15 by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) executive committee and the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) executive board to serve as the fifth executive director-treasurer of the WMU auxiliary to the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Members of WMU's executive board also approved a change to the job title to reflect the organization's expanding ministries.

Townsend, director of the Global Leadership Institute at Jackson Preparatory School, has a rich history with Mississippi Baptists. Her father, the late Byron R. Malone, was a longtime pastor in the state. She has served as minister of students and discipleship at Highland Colony Church, Madison (1996-2002); student minister at First Church, Jackson (1987-96); interim education and youth/singles minister at Woodville Heights Church, Jackson (1983-87); and music and youth director at Lena Church, Lena (1979-1980).

"I'm sure all members of the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union rejoice with me in The Lord's provision of a new leader, Dr. Cynthia Malone Townsend. Cindy has strong leadership abilities, great creativity, and a winsome

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TOWNSEND

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JUN 01 2015



## From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

### Never-ending struggle

All of us were relieved when the controversial proposal to build a 15-story mosque two blocks from the site of the bloody World Trade Towers attack in New York City was canceled last year by the developer.

Now the developer has announced that he will demolish the tritared building where the mosque was supposed to go and instead construct a three-story museum "dedicated to exploring the faith of Islam and its arts and culture," which coincidentally will contain a sanctuary for prayer and a community organizing room.

That idea hasn't gone over very well, either, with New Yorkers who remember 9/11, but the developer is pressing on in his search for investors.

The structure as you describe it would be as grotesque as a three-story museum dedicated to exploring the faith of Shintoism and emperor-worship, and its arts and culture, with a sanctuary for prayer services and community programs, at Pearl Harbor." Robert Spencer, who runs the blog Jihad Watch, told the New York Times.

On one side our elected officials, who consider themselves an elite ruling class, have lectured us on the absolute constitutional right Americans have to worship as we please. They're right on that specific point, of course, but their intellectual arrogance and social condescension have turned off a lot of people. In addition, their harangues on the Constitution usually fail to include any mention of whether it is appropriate to glorify Islam on that particular piece of property.

On the other side, families of 9/11 victims and experts on Islamic behavior have strongly opposed the construction of anything Islamic so close to Ground Zero, saying it is an insult to memories of their loved ones and will be understood around the Muslim world as a validation of the attack and a victory over the U.S.

They have a point, too. Islam has an established historical pattern of building on top of civilizations they have destroyed, as signs of triumphalism and subjugation. Temple Mount in Jerusalem is a good example.

If only U.S. President Barack Obama, who studied in Muslim schools as a youngster, had the courage to do so, perhaps he could

work out an exchange whereby a Christian church could be built next to the Grand Mosque in Mecca, Saudi Arabia.

Don't hold your breath. Saudi Arabia is one of the most repressive Islamic regimes in the world, so Christians building a comparable structure in that country would be fortunate to escape with their lives. It seems Americans are the only ones who have to be considerate of other people's religious feelings.

While the New York City debate rages on, most Mississippi Baptists are probably unaware that there are currently 17 mosques in Mississippi. The scandal is not that there is a controversial Islamic center proposed for New York City, or that there are 17 mosques in Mississippi. The scandal is that Christians in Mississippi — and specifically Mississippi Baptists, since we are the most expansive Christian organization in the state — are not seeking with all our hearts and souls to obey our Lord's Great Commission as stated in Matthew 28:18-20.

If we were indeed as serious as we should be about helping to bring Mississippi and the world to Jesus, there wouldn't be a need for a single mosque in New York City or this state. If we were as serious as we should be, airplanes and boats and cars and every other form of transportation would be filled to overflowing with missionaries (that would be you and me) headed across town and across the world to save the lost from eternal damnation.

If we were as serious as we should be, missions offerings like the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering, the Annie Armstrong Offering for North American Missions, and the Lottie Moon Offering for International Missions would be filled to overflowing every year. If we were as serious as we should be, we would be using every legitimate tool at our disposal to fight the very real presence of Satan in the world, where he seeks whom he can devour.

It's time we got serious. The world seems very dark right now, and is much in need of the Light and Truth that is Jesus Christ. People are dying every day without that Light and Truth, and entering an eternity of misery and death. If that doesn't drive you to your knees before Almighty God, what will?

## Time for another Tertullian

It was the Carthaginian church father, Tertullian (ca. AD 150-225), who, upon contemplating the terrible carnage of his fellow Christians, dared to remark, "The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the gospel." He said it at a time when countless Christians were being put to death for their faith and the future of Christianity still hung in the balance.

This father of the church was a man of faith who rejected the persecution of his generation's ghastly goal, choosing instead to interpret it in light of the Christian hope that does not disappoint. Tertullian believed that these deaths would germinate for the furtherance of the Gospel (see John 12:24-25).

In this vein, you have to marvel at language and wonder if Greek didn't develop for just such an eventuality. I am referring to "martyr," a small Greek word with a semantic domain broad enough to encircle the call to be a witness and be expanded to include the possible fate of martyrdom (Acts 22:20; Revelation 2:13; 17:6).

Some might just want to chalk up this semantic nexus to an idiosyncrasy of the Greek language, but Jesus makes this interrelated connection in other ways as well. After all, the same Lord who said His followers would be hated by all (Matthew 10:22) also expected they would take the Gospel to the nations for a witness (Matthew 24:14).

Peter is another case in point. This man, who before the crucifixion and resurrection was adverse to any kind of personal peril, makes a startling connection that many of us often miss. In his first epistle, he writes: "And who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed" (1 Peter 3:13-14a).

These believers were not arm chair apologists pondering logical arguments for the existence of God, or the reliability of the Scriptures, or the truthfulness of the resurrection from behind the comfort of a desk or a university lectern.

We would have to be deaf and blind to not know what is happening to Christians in many places around the world, and yet it is a fact that most Christians don't know or, apparently, don't seem to care. The latest reports estimate that approximately 100 million Christians are facing perse-



Guest opinion  
with Rudy Gonzalez

cution, with roughly 100,000 Christians dying for their faith each year.

I am not holding my breath waiting for those in power to say a word about this global atrocity, for the things of this world are passing (1 John 2:8, 17). Our response is what really matters at this crucial moment so I ask, is the blood of today's Copt, Syrian, Libyan, Sudanese, and Nigerian martyrs (among many others) still the seed for evangelism, or is it spilling tragically onto the beaches of Libya, there to be diluted by the Mediterranean?

We know that only the blood of Christ can take away our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:7-9), but the blood of the faithful is never silent. Before Christ, the blood of the prophets and Abel called out for justice (Genesis 4:9; Matthew 23:30).

In this interim moment of grace, when Paul admits his complicity in shedding the blood of Stephen, God responds not with vengeance but with a mandate: "Go! For I will send you far away to the Gentiles" (Acts 22:20-21). God's response to the shed blood of a saint is to double down on evangelism!

*Mei gênito!* — "May it never be" — that we should squander this powerful moment. Let us be modern-day Tertullians and dare to believe that the blood of our Christian brothers being shed can be the seed that God will plant to raise up a powerful evangelistic effort.

Fact: It was the courage of Christian slaves as they were being slaughtered in gladiatorial arenas that caused Tertullian to turn to Christ in faith. Most recently, it was the faith of 20 Copt martyrs that caused a non-believer from Chad to

see GONZALEZ on p. 6

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# Platt: Policy revisions will open up 'new pathways'

**RICHMOND, Va. (BP)** — The new International Mission Board (IMB) policy on missionary qualifications, which will replace previous restrictions related to baptism, speaking in tongues, divorce, and other matters, represents an effort to keep basic requirements from going beyond the Baptist Faith and Message (BFM), IMB President David Platt told reporters May 14.

"We want it to be simple and clear that what's driving us doctrinally is what all these churches [of the Southern Baptist Convention] have agreed on in the Baptist Faith and Message," Platt said during an hour-long telephone press conference.

"...We're tethering ourselves to the Baptist Faith and Message, and we tethered ourselves to it in such a way that if the Southern Baptist Convention were to edit or adjust the Baptist Faith and Message a year from now or two years from now or whenever, then that would adjust the way we work," Platt said.

Approved during a May 12-13 IMB trustee meeting in Louisville, Ky., the new policy is one component of an effort to open "new pathways" of missionary service overseas for students, professionals, retirees, and others, and establish a single set of preliminary qualifications for all categories of missionaries, Platt said.

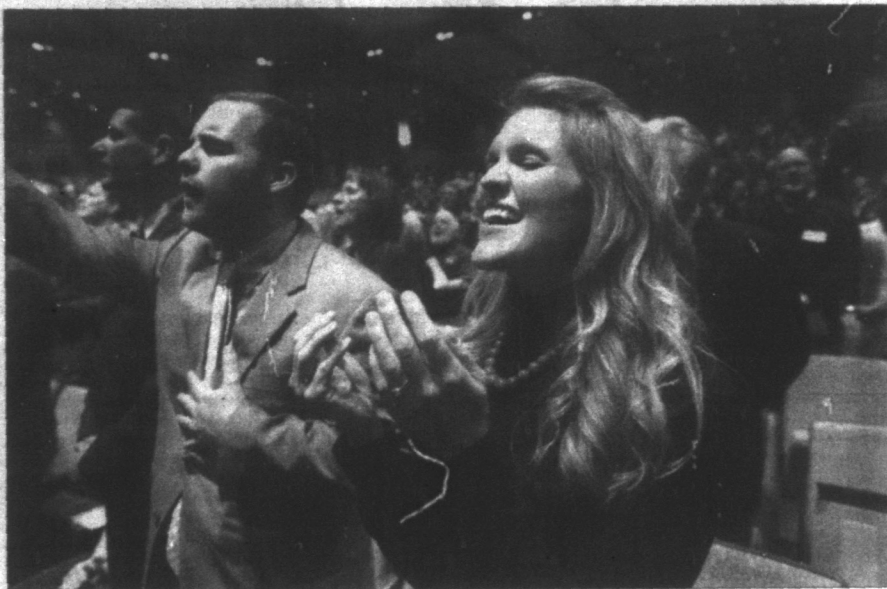
Those new pathways of missionary service have not been established yet but are expected to be announced in the months ahead, Platt said. Trustees and staff will establish additional requirements for specific categories of IMB overseas personnel, he added.

Subsequent to the press conference, IMB spokeswoman Wendy Norvelle told Baptist Press that trustees have yet to determine the preferred funding mechanism for new pathways of missionary service. She added, however, that the IMB encourages churches to give through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions and the Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists' unified method of funding missions and ministries in North America and across the globe.

Platt said IMB leaders have not disclosed the vote count on the new missionary qualifications policy to either trustees or the public, stating only that he was "encouraged" by the vote's outcome.

The newly adopted policy, known as 200-1, replaces the previous policy of the same number which had been adopted in 2010 to govern qualifications for career missionaries. The policies on teenage children, tongues, and baptism were not part of the former version of 200-1 although Norvelle said such matters would be interpreted within the revised policy.

Previous policies "were put in place at various times for good



**READY FOR SERVICE** — David and Katie Kizziah from Alberta Church in Tuscaloosa, Al., were appointed as missionaries Feb. 26 during a special service at Sagemont Church in Houston, Texas. They will serve in Zambia with their three children. International Mission Board President David Platt announced May 14 that major policy changes have been put in place for missions service candidates. (BP photo courtesy of IMB)



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**David Platt, IMB President**

reasons," Platt said, but needed revision given the demands of fulfilling the Great Commission today. He commented on several specific changes related to hot-button issues:

■ "Under 200-1, a divorce is not an automatic disqualifier for long-term service with the IMB as it was under the old policy," Platt said. Previously, divorced persons were disqualified from service as career and apprentice missionaries.

The marital history of all missionary candidates still will be examined. However, the circumstances of a divorce will now be considered along with the view of the prospective missionary's host culture regarding divorce and the candidate's potential role on a missionary team, Platt said.

Requirements regarding divorce may need to differ for lead church planters and support personnel, he pointed out.

■ The only baptism requirements under the new policy are that a missionary be "a baptized member of a Southern Baptist church," and possess a "conviction of truth as expressed in the current Baptist Faith and Message statement of the Southern Baptist Convention."

## On the web

For a First-Person column by Platt on the new personnel policy, visit [bpnews.net/44755/imb-and-churches-limitless-missionary-teams](http://bpnews.net/44755/imb-and-churches-limitless-missionary-teams).

For a FAQ, [imb.org/updates/storyview-3165.aspx#VVQLCzbKif](http://imb.org/updates/storyview-3165.aspx#VVQLCzbKif).

Article VII of the BFM defines baptism as "the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus."

Article VII adds that baptism is "prerequisite" to church membership and the Lord's Supper. IMB missionaries, Platt said, "are going to believe and function and practice and live in accordance with" the BFM.

Previously, IMB policy 200-16 stated: "Baptism must take place under the authority of a local church that practices believer's baptism by immersion alone,

embraces the doctrine of the security of the believer's salvation and does not view baptism as sacramental, regenerative or essential to salvation." The policy applied to all missionaries at all levels of service.

■ The previous policy on tongues and private prayer languages "went beyond some of the language in the Baptist Faith and Message," Platt said. The BFM makes no mention of either issue.

Policy 200-1 also does not mention speaking in tongues or using a private prayer language, but Platt said the IMB Field Personnel Manual allows a missionary to be terminated for disruptive emphasis on any specific spiritual gift as normative for all Christians.

Platt stressed his opposition to excesses of the charismatic movement. "I have seen and confronted the dangers of the charismatic movement and the error that has in so many ways undercut the authority of God's Word. ... I want to make sure that we are faithfully representing Southern Baptist churches and convictions at every point."

Previously, IMB policy defined the gift of tongues, or "glossolalia" in Greek, as speaking "a le-

gitimate language," and disqualified from service all missionary candidates who used an unintelligible language in worship or practiced glossolalia in worship without following the New Testament guidelines.

Using an "ecstatic utterance as a prayer language" disqualified a candidate from service.

■ Families with teenage children are eligible to serve under policy 200-1 and will be evaluated on a case by case basis, Platt said, noting some mission fields are suitable for families with teenagers while others are not.

A previous policy stated that couples with children age 12 and older would be eligible for service only after specific criteria were met, including psychological or psychiatric evaluations of the children.

Asked about policies governing alcohol use, Platt said trustee-approved policy did not previously and does not currently disqualify candidates who drink alcohol. Yet the Field Personnel Manual requires all missionaries to abstain from alcohol following their appointment.

Platt cited policies on alcohol as a model for how other debated issues might be handled in the future. "The only way to address some of these issues is not a policy that's a disqualifier on the front end. People know. It's not like we're hiding any of what we believe about these issues but we are saying, 'OK, they're not automatically disqualifiers on the front end, but it's clear, as an IMB missionary, that we abstain from alcohol.'"

Making adherence to BFM the baseline requirement for missionary service represents an attempt to ease initial restrictions on qualified Southern Baptists who feel a call to take the Gospel to the nations, Platt pointed out.

Trustees "see that there are some issues we must address as the IMB," Platt said. "Our pipeline has been small and tough to get through in different ways that we could open up and free."

Regarding prospective missionaries who were prevented from serving under the old policies, Platt said, "The door is open for them to explore serving with the IMB."

Platt asked Southern Baptists to pray for wisdom among IMB leaders as they seek to increase the number of missionaries despite limited funds. "Even before this, we were turning away Southern Baptist church members who were qualified to serve as missionaries — even under our old qualifications. All the more under our new qualifications."

"Some would say, 'Then why open up the pathway if you've already got kind of a backlog?' Well, I don't want to continue to say no to qualified members of Southern Baptist churches," Platt said.

It was May 2015 a few days before Mother's Day when before sunrise one morning I heard this strange, unusual sound off in the distance. It continued on and on as I tried to figure out what it was. I ruled out a siren and it wasn't a motor humming. It wasn't a helicopter or an airplane nor was it a passing sports car. After a few minutes it hit me. They're back. The cicadas are back.

They come to our area in their predetermined life cycle, some coming every 13 years and another type coming about every 17 years. As the morning and the day wore on, I knew it was them, that they were back and they brought their whole family with them. In fact over the next few days, again and again in meetings or just visiting with friends the topic would come up. Some people were wondering what that noise was and others were well versed in the life of the cicada and provided valuable information out of their deep knowledge of bugology.

Occasionally someone would refer to them as locust and quickly they would be challenged and maybe even reprimanded and were told they're not locusts, they're cicadas. Regardless of where the discussion was going, the comments were made in favor of or opposed to the cicadas, I just thought again and again the cicadas are singing. This unusual class of insects that often make Mississippi home are here for a short time and they'll be gone only to return in 13 years. While they're here let me suggest to you that you do several things that will bring joy and pleasure to your heart.

**First of all, listen.** Sometimes you will be in a place and it will sound like they are two or three miles away and they well may be. Other times you will be somewhere and it will seem like the cicada symphony orchestra has set up right over your head and they well may be, but listen to them. They're not harmful to human beings at all. They don't bite, scratch, kick. They look scary and vicious to a lot of people. Great big



## The Cicadas Are Singing

bug eyes and plastic looking wings, but they won't bother you in the least. Listen to them. If you hear one all by itself it may sound like a squeaky scratchy noise, maybe even like a beginner playing a violin. Oh, but when these folks get together, a congregation of cicadas, it's amazing how they seem to harmonize and present a chorus of humming.

As a kid sitting outdoors in the summer in pre-television days, we used to watch the clouds as they would move around and take on various shapes that look like people walking across the sky or an airplane or even a ship. For the sensitive ear desiring to hear something good from these little creatures God made, you may be blessed to hear the orchestra warm up and then play tirelessly almost hour after hour. If you listen carefully enough you will be blessed.

**Secondly, love.** It is always true and forever amazing how hearing things changes according to whether or not you love. As a young pastor who had no children and certainly no grandchildren, I'd hear little kids get up at church and try to sing and it was almost, well at least to me, pathetic. In time the changes that came to my own life and the love that filled my heart for some little kids that

came into my home and then to my kids' homes, changed everything about the songs and the people who were singing. It was all good. Not just good, it was incredible. They could stand up there and sing and wave and pull at their ears, scratch their nose and the love in my heart simply would pour out saying that is absolutely wonderful.

It's always that way when you listen to cicadas or grandkids or someone else that may be singing at your church. It changes the way you hear and the way you look at people. In fact, you can be in a group of folks and listen to them as they are complaining about contemporary music in our churches or you shift over into another group as they complain about the dry, uninspiring traditional music. Folks in either group may be showing their lack of love both for the people they are talking about and the subject matter of the song being sung.

See, what is true in our churches is also true among our brother and sister cicadas. They're not mean or mad; they're just doing what they feel led to do. They won't be around long, so I would enjoy them and I would encourage you to just love them. Here's the

reality. Their expressions of sound are few and only briefly offered. That said, there's a small window of opportunity for them to express whatever it is they're expressing -- praise or signals to other cicadas, and they have to take opportunities to do what they can do while there is time. Now regardless of whether you're in the millennial class of folks or the baby boomers of the upward generation, be loving enough, kind enough, thoughtful enough to at least take a shot at enjoying the demonstration of praise only here a few days and then it is gone. It is true whether you are expressing your love for the folks at church and the various stages of generational process or you are reaching out to your grandkids or touching the life of your grandparents, mix in a little love and you will find that what is going on with them can be a blessing to you.

**The third thing I would encourage us to do is just linger in love.** As 13 year cycles come and go, obviously I have heard a number of them in my lifetime, and it is strange how you can recall what it sounded like, but when it happens again after a 13 year absence, boom, it shocks you again that it is happening. In Ecclesiastes 3, the wise Solomon made this observation from his brilliant mind and his even more brilliant heart that God had made all things beautiful (v. 11), and I guess you could put a footnote there that even the cicadas, or maybe even the teenagers, or maybe even the senior adults, or maybe even the toddlers, or maybe even the adventurous young adults, or maybe even the struggling, aching, precious soul limited in mobility, pretty much confined to a home, has a joyful expression to share with others.

The cicadas are singing. At whatever age or stage you may be in, why don't you join them? It will bless you and you will bless most of us.

The author can be contacted at [directions@mbcb.org](mailto:directions@mbcb.org).

## Bibile Drill



**BETHEL CHURCH, BOGUE CHITTO,** recognizes its Bible drillers. Deborah Moak, Bible drill director.



**CROWDER CHURCH, CROWDER,** recognizes its Bible drillers and leader Paula Tribble.



**STANDING PINE CHURCH, LEAKE ASSOCIATION,** recognizes its Bible drillers.



**TUCKERS CROSSING CHURCH, LAUREL,** recognizes its Bible drillers: Patrick McLemore (left), three-year children; Dakota Forbes (right), nine-year youth; and their total group.





What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

# HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

May 21, 2015

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.



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## SCHOOL PRAYER WALK

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<http://www.mbc.org/womans-missionary-union/prayer/>

Contact Tammy Anderson of the MS WMU for advice:  
601-292-3323 or  
[tanderson@mbcb.org](mailto:tanderson@mbcb.org)

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or Paula Smith—601-292-3336 or [psmith@mbcb.org](mailto:psmith@mbcb.org)

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Co-Lin  
California



Ryan Anderson  
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Wales



James Baker  
BMC  
Ohio



Heath Baskin  
MSU  
Isle of Man



Tylon Beckwith  
MSU  
Japan



Brandy Bledsoe  
MC  
South Korea



Katelyn Bowen  
MC  
Philippines



Katie Ireland  
Meridian  
Oklahoma



Chris Chatham  
USM  
Southeast Asia



Aryn Clark  
UM  
South Korea



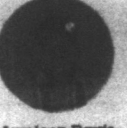
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Cody Cook  
NECC  
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Robbie Cornelison  
MGCCC  
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Jamieen Davis  
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Ireland



Austin Davis  
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Megan DeLise  
MSU  
Washington



Maura Dismukes  
BMC  
Washington



Connor Edwards  
UM  
Japan



Stephen Guthrie  
USM  
Southeast Asia



Colton Hardin  
MSU  
Maryland



Sarah Harrell  
MC  
Alaska



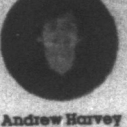
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Thailand



Christy Hart  
NWCC  
California



Luke Hartness  
SMCC  
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Andrew Harvey  
MGCCC  
South Korea



Jenna Hegwood  
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Thailand



Stuart Hinton  
USM  
Massachusetts



Erika Holacker  
MC  
Mexico



Jessica Kane  
DSU  
Texas



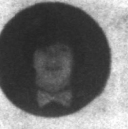
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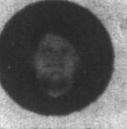
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Alaska



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South Korea



Kathleen Martin  
Hinds  
Washington



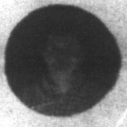
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Massachusetts



Beth Enehart  
BMC  
Oklahoma



Nick Robertson  
Holmes  
East Asia



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Hinds  
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South Asia



Collie Fox  
MSU  
East Asia



Rebecca Frady  
MSU  
Washington



Dave Franklin  
MC  
Europe



Jarrett Frierson  
MC  
California



Monica Fuller  
BMC  
Isle of Man



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MDCC  
Texas



Caroline Holsonback  
ECCC  
Thailand



Lauren Hosey  
Jones  
Botswana



Ashton Houghton  
MGCCC  
New Mexico



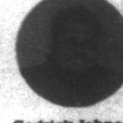
Taylor Huddleston  
USM  
Australia



Audrianna Huff  
Jones  
Texas



Zach Huhn  
MGCCC  
California



Cedrick Johnson  
Jones  
Texas



Emmy Jones  
MSU  
Philippines



Dylan Jones  
ECCC  
Philippines



Parker Jones  
ECCC  
Philippines



Katie McCracken  
MSU  
Canada



Michael McKnight  
Hinds  
New Mexico



Lori McMorrow  
DSU  
Canada



Jill McNeece  
MSU  
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Lauren Middleton  
MC  
Scotland



Katelyn Miskelley  
MC  
Maryland



Harlie Montgomery  
Jones  
Southeast Asia



Halsea Montgomery  
Jones  
Southeast Asia



Karie Mooney  
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Kendall Morrow  
NWCC  
Oklahoma



Anna Nowell  
ECCC  
Thailand



Katelyn Oaks  
NWCC  
Florida



Bekah Ostoj  
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Holly Pearce  
SMCC  
Louisiana



Brandon Pitts  
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Thailand



Erik Pohle  
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Holmes  
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Olivia Russell  
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McKayla Sheene  
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Jones  
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Nate Sisson  
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Jenna Smiley  
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Southeast Asia



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NECC  
Georgia



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Jones  
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Austin Syvest  
USM  
Massachusetts



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Hinds  
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Meghan Woolworth  
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Wes Wroten  
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# MISSISSIPPI BSU

## MMER MISSIONARIES

Pray this day for...

May 22 - June 4, 2015

*"And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." Colossians 3:17 (ESV)*

Pray for: **David & Regina White**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through church planting, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Floyd & Sylvia Wingo**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through strategy coordination.

Pray for: **Charles & Shannon Worthy**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through community outreach.

Pray for: **James & Mary Adair**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through church planting, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Bethany Allen**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through community outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Richard & Martha Beal**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through financial administration, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **David & Laurie Bledsoe**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Kaye Brooks**, missionary ministering to American Peoples through church planting.

Pray for: **Donald & Donna Brown**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through church planting, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Karen Brown**, missionary ministering to American Peoples through nursing.

Pray for: **John & Claudia Brown**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Matthew Burks**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through evangelism.

Pray for: **David & Pamela Carlton**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through theological education, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Richard & Wanda Clark**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through strategy coordination.

The IMB missionaries listed in the HouseTops prayer calendar are currently active in 2-4 year terms or in career service.

Is the community impacted by your group?

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We will be in all areas of our state to equip your Sunday School and Small Group church leadership from pastors to preschool with tools for teaching Jesus as the Christ.

### 2015 Sunday School and Small Groups Leadership Conferences 6:30-8:30 p.m.

#### LOCATIONS

- 7/21/2015 Hardy Street Baptist Church, Hattiesburg
- 7/28/2015 First Baptist Church, Newton
- 7/30/2015 Brandon Baptist Church, Brandon
- 8/4/2015 Crosspoint Church, Gulfport
- 8/7-8/2015 Harrisburg Baptist Church, Tupelo (part of Growing Churches)
- 8/11/2015 West McComb Baptist Church, West McComb
- 8/13/2015 First Baptist Church, Batesville
- 8/25/2015 First Baptist Church, Cleveland
- 8/27/2015 First Baptist Church, Winona



BAPTISTS

A Ministry of the Cooperative Program  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board  
Sunday School and Small Groups Team  
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eddy@mbcb.org

## GOING TO COLLEGE THIS FALL?

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**EAST CENTRAL CC**  
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**EAST MISSISSIPPI CC**  
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jmsimpson510@gmail.com

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craver\_stephen@yahoo.com

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bsu@holmescc.edu

**ITAWAMBA CC**  
662-862-3278  
icbsu@my.iccms.edu

**JONES COUNTY JC**  
601-477-3973  
jcjbsu@gmail.com

**MERIDIAN CC**  
601-693-2674  
meridian\_bsu@bellsouth.net

**MC**  
601-925-3238  
maddox@mc.edu

**MISSISSIPPI DELTA CC**  
662-246-5043  
jep7144@aol.com

**MSU**  
662-323-5761  
mb252@ra.msstate.edu

**MS U FOR WOMEN**  
662-328-3295  
bsu@muw.edu

**NORTHEAST MS CC**  
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northeastBSU@hotmail.com

**NORTHWEST MS CC**  
662-562-6168  
bsunwcc@gmail.com

**PEARL RIVER CC**  
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For more information  
contact the Collegiate  
Ministry Department at  
601-292-3299



Baptist Student Union is a ministry of your Cooperative Program.

# HOUSE TOPS



## OBITUARY

**Billy Jack Barron, 79**, of Lexington, missionary/minister, passed away Apr. 26 at University of Mississippi Medical Center, Jackson. Visitation was held Apr. 28, from 6 - 8 p.m. at Ebenezer Church, Ebenezer.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. Apr. 29 at Ebenezer Church. On April 30, burial took place at Kirk Memorial Gardens in Rainsville, Ala. Barron was a member of Ebenezer Church where he had

served as pastor for 27 years; he was an Army veteran and a New Tribes missionary for 44 years. He is survived by his wife, Margaret Barron; son, Adrian Barron (Brenda) of Georgia; daughter, Alisa Drake (David) of Pearl; sister, Doris Bethune of Alabama; 3 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents Orron Franklin and Gustavious Lewis Barron, and son Thomas Craig Barron.

## TOWNSEND

cont. from p. 1

personality," said Janet Green, Mississippi WMU president. "It is her desire to help individuals grow in their spiritual depth and commitment to The Lord Jesus Christ. She has a heart for the nations and is uniquely gifted with the skills, insights, and experiences needed to lead the women of Mississippi forward in the culture of today."

"The search committee is excited about the future of Mississippi WMU and its ministries with Dr. Townsend in leadership. She is devoted to involving people in missions. It is her heart," said Marion Duncan of Starkville, chair of the WMU executive director-treasurer search committee that brought about the recommendation of Townsend.

"Cindy works with teenage girls in her local church through Acteens, leading them to develop a missional lifestyle. She looks forward to visiting in the nine geographical areas of Mississippi WMU and getting to know the women involved in local missions opportunities," Duncan said.

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, said upon her election, "While Cindy Townsend has spent most of her life in Mississippi, her ministry

experiences have touched every age group and reached to the ends of the earth."

Townsend holds two degrees from Baptist-affiliated Mississippi College in Clinton: a B.S. in music education ('89), and a M.S. Ed. in music ('82). Her husband of 35 years, William R. (Bill) Townsend, is vice-president of institutional advancement and legal counsel to the president of Mississippi College.

She also holds two degrees from New Orleans Seminary: M.A. in Christian Education ('91) and D.Ed. Min. ('12). She served as director of women's missions and ministry for the Louisiana Baptist Convention (2002-2006).

The Townsends reside in Flowood and have two adult children.

"During this season of my life, I know this call has been orchestrated by God for His purposes," said Townsend in written remarks provided to The Baptist Record. "The call is to encourage Mississippi women of all ages (children, youth, adult) to be on mission for Christ and to equip women to give to missions, learn about missions, pray for missions, do missions, and ultimately live the mission's lifestyle in their community, state, nation, and world. (Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth.)"

"I am standing on my tiptoes anticipating a great movement

of God in the lives of women across our state."

The WMU executive committee also approved the search committee's recommendation to make an addition to the executive director's title, which will now be known as executive director-treasurer of Woman's Missionary Union and Women's Ministries of Mississippi.

"Looking toward the future of Mississippi WMU with a creative, innovative new leader in place, we need to make provision for her to be welcomed and well-received in groups of women and churches across our state to share new ideas and methods of missions education and involvement in missions ministries," according to a statement released by the search committee.

"The expanded title expresses more fully all the avenues of ministry for which the office is responsible and allows Dr. Townsend and her staff to minister more effectively in Mississippi Baptist churches," Green said. "I am so grateful to the prayer warriors, who make up our Mississippi WMU executive board, for their foresight in affirming these far-reaching decisions, leaving us poised for the future."

"May we continue to depend on the Lord, asking Him to guide and empower us as we seek to answer His Great Commission call."

## MS POSITIONS

**NEEDED: SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH IN MISSISSIPPI IS SEARCHING FOR A FULL-TIME ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF MUSIC & EDUCATION OR A PART-TIME VOCATIONAL MINISTER OF MUSIC.** For more information, please e-mail resumes to [tommartin@gmail.com](mailto:tommartin@gmail.com).

**PIONEER BAPTIST CHURCH, LOCATED IN WOODVILLE, MS, IS SEEKING A BIVOCATIONAL WORSHIP/MUSIC LEADER.** Resumes can be sent to the attention of the Music Committee at 2636 Highway 513 North, Woodville, MS 39669.

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**FULL TIME PRESCHOOL/CHILDREN'S MINISTER NEEDED AT FBC FLORA.** Please send resumes to Children's Search Team P.O. Box 163, Flora, MS, 39071 or [joclee@fbcflora.org](mailto:joclee@fbcflora.org).

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**EASTWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH IN INDIANOLA, MS IS IN SEARCH OF A FULL TIME PASTOR.** Please send resumes to: Pastor Search Committee, P. O. Box 466, Indianola, MS 38751 or email to [shirleybette@sbtsouth.net](mailto:shirleybette@sbtsouth.net).

**ENON BAPTIST CHURCH IS SEEKING A BIVOCATIONAL MINISTER OF YOUTH.** Send resumes to: 2604 Carrollton Rd. Grenada, Ms. 38901 or email-[enonbaptistchurch@outlook.com](mailto:enonbaptistchurch@outlook.com) or call- (662)226-0778.

**NEEDED: FULL TIME OR BIVOCATIONAL MINISTER OF YOUTH AND CHILDREN AT ASHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH IN ASHLAND, MS.** Send resumes to Mr. Stanley Poff, 285 Carter Flats, Ashland, MS 38603 or email to [stanleypoff@yahoo.com](mailto:stanleypoff@yahoo.com)

## CLASSIFIEDS

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July 18 7:00 p.m.

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\$25 General Admission

\$35 Artist Circle

\$75 VIP Seating

Doors open at 6:00 p.m.

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## BOARD

cont. from p. 1

conferences in the department's specialty areas.

Prior to serving at First Church, Grenada, Lee was senior pastor and associate pastor prior to that at Providence Church, Hattiesburg (2003-2010). He was also senior pastor at Macedonia Church, New Albany (2000-2002), and pastor of New Prospect Church, Iuka (1999-2000).

He holds a B.A. in psychology ('97) from Mississippi State University in Starkville, an M.Div. in biblical studies ('02) and M.Th. in Old Testament/Hebrew ('06) from New Orleans Seminary, and is pursuing a D.Min in pastoral work at New Orleans Seminary.

Lee has been married to the former Jennifer D. Esler for 20 years, and they have three children.

"His experience, keen mind, and great spirit will provide great leadership for all of our pastors and leaders," Futral said.

"I love Mississippi and Mississippi Baptists! I am both excited and humbled to join the Convention team and fill this role. My family covets your prayers as we transition to serve our MBCB pastors, staff, and churches," Lee said.

Shane Thrash, assistant director of the Baptist Student Union at William Carey University (WCU) in Hattiesburg since July 2011 and also the current interim pastor at Lake Como Church, Bay Springs, will begin his duties as the new manager of Central Hills Retreat near Kosciusko on June 15.

He replaces James Ray, who resigned Dec. 31 to an-

swer the call to pastor Cherry Creek Church, Pontotoc.

The primary purpose of Central Hills Retreat, according to the MBCB web site, is to provide a Christian camping experience for boys and girls ages five to 18. The facility is used almost exclusively for summer camp programs from late May to early August. Throughout the rest of the year, Central Hills is available for camps, retreats, and conferences.

Prior to his current service, Thrash was student pastor at West Laurel Church, Laurel (2010-2012), minister of families at Park Haven Church, Laurel (2008-2010), and associate pastor/minister of students at Friendship Church, Ellisville (2003-2008).

He holds a bachelor of general studies with concentrations in biblical studies and physical education ('06) and a masters of counseling psychology with an emphasis in Christian counseling ('08), both from WCU.

Thrash, a former U.S. Marine, is a Central Hills staff alumnus. He has been married to his wife Kristel since December 2003, and they have three children.

"Shane has history with Central Hills Retreat. God has uniquely packaged his experience and his desire with his ministerial experience, a love for young people, and a stint with the United States Marine Corps," Futral said.

"I am truly excited to have this opportunity," Thrash said. "Since my time as a summer staffer at Central Hills, it has been my dream to manage a camp. I never thought that it would be at a place that has meant so much to me. I look forward to what God has in store for me and my family in His ministry at Central Hills."

Tim Ruth was elected to the position of financial services (GuideStone) representative and procurement officer. He will begin his new duties on June 1.

Ruth has been the consultant contract manager for the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) since 2010 and was an MDOT contract employee before then. He has also been self-employed and worked in sales and account management. He was an operations auditor for Citigroup for six years.

He holds a bachelor of business administration with emphases in management and marketing ('90) from the University of Mississippi in Oxford and an associate in general business administration ('88) from Northeast Mississippi Community College in Booneville.

A longtime member of Broadmoor Church in Madison, Ruth has been married to wife Teena for 22 years and they have two children.

"Tim has spent most of his adult life in business, while he has been consumed with ministry and caring about people at the same time," Futral said.

"God has assembled some of the greatest leaders to ministry assignments all across the state. What a blessing I am being given to serve alongside them in being their Guidestone representative," Ruth said. "Also, as a portion of my position I will be managing some of the day-to-day procurement and business of MBCB. I look forward to serving in the stewardship of this area as well."

"We look forward to all of them coming to provide unique leadership with God-given abilities, and to bless all Mississippi Baptists," Futral said.

## GONZALEZ

cont. from p. 2

embrace Christ, becoming the 21st believer to die at the hands of ISIS on that same day.

I know of nothing that would honor our martyrs more than for the church to proclaim the Gospel for a witness in our city streets and around the

world. Let's do it in the power of the Spirit. Many will hear and believe!

González is professor of New Testament and director of the William R. Marshall Center for Theological Studies in San Antonio, Texas, a campus of Southwestern Seminary. His commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press.

## B i B L i O C i P H E R

NX OE OX PGOEERT OT ELR YGAYL-  
REX, KRLAFB, O XRTB WU WRXXRT-  
DRG KRCAGR ELU CNHR, PLOHL XLNFF  
YGRYNGR ELU PNU KRCAGR ELRR.  
WNGM ATR: EPA

Clue: T = N

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke 2:7

By Charles Marx, 1932-2004, © 2005

## Need a light?

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name," (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

## Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published.

Preferred method: news may be submitted electronically to the e-mail address below, and must be included in the message segment of an e-mail form. Secondary method: news may be typewritten or neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper and mailed. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone. Due to ever-present virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments in JPEG format are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs must be submitted electronically

via e-mail, as attachments in JPEG format. Hard copy photographs mailed through the postal service will not be accepted. Photographs must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. Photographs containing inappropriate gestures and objectionable clothing will not be published. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items that do not reproduce well on newsprint are generally not publishable.

There is no guarantee that news items and/or photographs will be published, and unsolicited material will not be acknowledged or returned. All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date. Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive.

Submit news to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.



## Faithful • Malachi 2:10-17

How good is your word to a friend? Is your handshake sufficient for an agreement of trust? I remember when my Dad accepted a job on a handshake between friends and no contract to sign. In this day of litigation, it sometimes takes a team of lawyers to explain the terms.

Life was not so complicated for Malachi as he explained covenant conditions to his listeners. Their covenant was with God. They knew the language and terms, yet they chose to interpret for themselves. He questioned their "Faithfulness".

### Irresponsible Behavior (Malachi 2:10-12)

*"Has God not created us? Why do we deal treacherously with one another by profaning the covenant of the fathers?"* (Malachi 2:10 NKJV)

Malachi is saying "Do you not remember the One who gave us life? Why do we defy His Word?" The people of Judah were not keeping His commandments. They were marrying foreign wives who worshipped idols, spiritual profanity. "Judah profaned the Lord's holy institution which He loved." v. 11 Then they brought an offering to the altar expecting God to bless what they had done. God does not bless flagrant sin, or any other sin. He expects repentance.

### The Marriage Covenant Reaffirmed (Malachi 2:13-15)

*"The Lord has been witness between*

*you and the wife of your youth, with whom you have dealt treacherously"* (Malachi 2:14 NKJV)

And this second thing you do...you cover the altar with tears...but God is not listening! Malachi says God ignores shallow repentance. They were trying to cover their sin with superficial expressions of regret. They could not understand God's response. He said they had divorced their long time wives and gone after idol-worshipping foreign women. God did not bless the broken marriage, nor did He bless the idolatrous spiritual adultery.

God's affirmation for marriage remains. It is not only a sacred trust between a man and a woman; it is also a sacred covenant with God. We cannot take that covenant lightly although today's culture certainly does.

### God Brings Justice (Malachi 2:16-17)

*"For the Lord God of Israel says that He hates divorce, for it covers one's garments with violence."* (Malachi 2:16 NKJV)



### Explore the Bible

with Kiely D. Young

They had stained that which God had made sacred. They further wearied God with shallow words twisting them for their own pleasure and personal desires even questioning the justice of God in challenging their actions. "Where is the God of justice?" v. 17

Some would argue that Jesus in Matthew 19:8 gives room for divorce. That is true, but that was a concession, not God's ideal. Paul would say that a Christian who is victim of an unbeliev-

ing spouse in divorce is released to remarry. Also true, through the grace of God.

God's plan for marriage is one man

and one woman until death alone parts them. That is His ideal. It is only the grace of God that can redeem us when we did not cling to His plan.

The conflict of man arises when we try to rationalize our actions in light of God's Laws. In essence we want to justify our actions. God's Word is firm, loving but firm.

Sin has consequences. Sin leaves scars. The sin can be forgiven through God's grace, but the scar tissue remains.

God gives us an ideal plan. If we stick to and follow His plans, we will be blessed abundantly. If we disregard or neglect God's plan, we suffer in direct proportion. Repentance that is shallow and filled with insincerity is worthless. But, broken hearted, sorrowful contrition gets the attention of God.

Malachi was looking for sorrowful contrition, but he found shallow insincere hearts. Justice prevailed. God wants us to follow His Word today just as Malachi was speaking in his day.

As my wife and I taught our sons and daughter, there are many things that will try to pull you away from the truth of God, some of which you might investigate and question in light of the Truth of God. We told them to remember the Truth never changes even though our culture does. Stick to the Truth and you will never regret it.

The world is looking to see how close to the truth we are walking. They are really looking for us to step out of line. If we do, they will say we are no different from them, so why should they follow us. Stand for His Truth. God is always faithful.

Young is retired Sunday School Director, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and a member of Ridgecrest Church, Madison.

## Stick with Humility • Philippians 2:1-5, 13-15

Relationships that stick like glue begin with Jesus adhesion! People who have been touched by Jesus can effectively touch others. We have been learning about spiritual "bonding agents" that contribute to the initiation and long term maintenance of relationships. Family and close friends are vital. Spouses are covenant lifetime sojourners. Children are blessings from God. These represent our deepest core. But there is more...

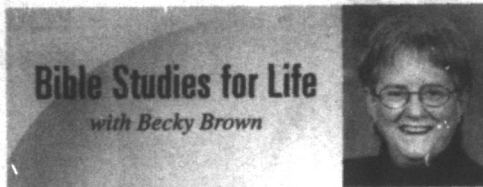
Please remember that relationships include reaching out to folks who have no Jesus connection. Jesus ate with sinners and worshipped with hypocrites and healed people who were possessed with demons and died for sorry old folks like me, thank goodness. For reasons that we may never fully comprehend, God desired to spend eternity WITH us; therefore, He sent Jesus down here to Earth to be LIKE us. What an exchange Jesus made to come from the glory of Heaven to the gory of Earth! To be willing to be "a little lower than the angels" required Jesus to empty Himself and embody humility (see Psalm 8 & Hebrews 2).

Paul was inspired by the Holy Spirit to write half of the books in our New Testament. One of those is a personal letter to the church at Philippi in Greece. This little letter is four short chapters long and filled with reasons to rejoice. "Brethren"

is a key word in Philippians. The repetition of this familial word communicates and elevates the value and importance of relationship. Paul was in prison as he penned this letter, isolated from the encouragement of relationships he loved and cherished.

Philippians chapter two presents an amazing picture of our bonding agent for this week: humility. The greatest ever example of humility is Jesus. He came to show us the beautiful, critical necessity of humility. Here we discover Paul's recipe

for Spiritual Glue. First, he identifies the main ingredients: encouragement found in Christ, consolation found in love, fellowship found in the Holy Spirit. Mix those anointing oils together. Fold in affection and compassion. Baked properly, they will produce four sticking points: stick together (with the same love), stick up for each other (with the same spirit), stick to the point (with the same purpose) and stick around (in the same locality serving together for the long haul).



### Bible Studies for Life

with Becky Brown

I wish I could report to you that every church and every believer lives by this recipe for Spiritual Glue. Alas, they do not. The proof is all around us evidenced by self-advancement, back biting, personal agendas and abandonment. I know of a church named Second True Love Baptist Church. That moniker always made me wonder what happened to their first true love...

I'm no cook. My oven is additional shelf space for storing books and CD's. All that to say, please put NO stock in my cu-

linary expertise. However, I do know that adding sugar to dishes makes them taste sweeter. Adding water to

the soup thins it down and serves more guests. In our study today, relationships are well-served when they are garnished with humility. People who walk in humility have the same love, the same spirit, the same purpose and are committed to the same locality of service for the long haul.

Humility is a critical ingredient for initiating and maintaining relationships. It

is also the catalyst for growth and nurture of them. Humble people do not seek to advance themselves. Humble people do not enflame back biting. Humble people are willing to consider all agendas, even to the point of sacrificing their own. Humble people are those who are content to be in the background quietly serving. They are committed for the long haul.

There is nothing more spiritually attractive than a body of believers who put Christ first and get along with each other. Conversely, there is nothing more spiritually destructive than a body of believers who put "me" first and strive for position against everyone else.

Philippians 2:3 reveals humility to be a condition of the heart reflected in a decision of the mind and an exercise of the will. Humility excludes selfishness, placing personal ambition on the back burner. Those who practice humility intentionally concern themselves with others. Apparently, the church at Philippi needed a humility review and re-alignment. Grumbings and disputings (verses 13-15) are evidence of a humility deficit. Paul reminded the Philippian brethren (and also the sister-ren!) that individual humility produces joyful community. Stick with love, encouragement, forgiveness, service and humility.

Brown is staff evangelist, First Church, Richland.

## Revivals & Homecomings

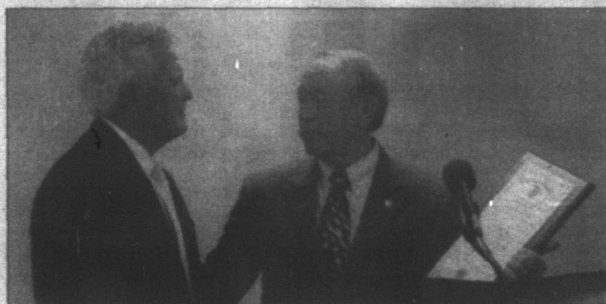
► **Bethel Church, Holcomb:** followed by lunch; Millard and Memorial Day, May 24, 11 a.m., Rosemarie Caulder, leading the

service; Barnette Fielder, pastor.  
► **Roundaway Church, Dods-**  
ville: Homecoming/Memorial  
Day, May 24; services, 10:30 a.m.  
followed by lunch; Todd Mixon,  
speaker.

► **Friendship Church,**  
Brookhaven: Homecoming, May  
24; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; ser-  
vice, 11 a.m. followed by dinner  
and afternoon service, with short  
business meeting for cemetery

fund; Howard Smith, speaker.  
► **Concord Church, Meadville:**  
Homecoming, May 24; services,  
11 a.m., followed by dinner on the  
ground and afternoon service;  
Benji Pyeatt, speaker.

## Just for the Record



Jimmy Porter retired as Executive Director of **CHRISTIAN ACTION COMMISSION**. Porter was presented a Miss. Senate Proclamation by Senator Phillip Gandy recognizing Porter for his 15 years of service at the Christian Action Commission. Gandy is also pastor of Liberty Baptist Church, Waynesboro.



The RA's and GA's of **CALVARY CHURCH, VICKSBURG** are shown receiving backpacks and badges.

**FRIENDSHIP CHURCH, BROOKHAVEN**, held a baby dedication on Mother's Day. Shown are pastor Chad Yarborough, Ryan and Bridgette Smith with daughter Ella Hope, and Kevin and Vickie Smith with daughter Hadley Jane and big sister Peyton.



### In other Church News:

► **Terry's Creek Church, Magnolia**, will have a covered dish luncheon May 31, 11:30 a.m., immediately after the worship service, and at 12:30 p.m. Cory Pittman will be guest speaker, portraying Jesus.

► **Raymond Road Church, Jackson**, will hold its monthly last Friday Bible study May 29, 10:30 a.m., followed by a pot luck lunch. Dan Watts, speaker.

► **Pride Aside: A Father's Journey Through His Son's Addiction**, by Steve Hutton, director of missions logistics at **Broadmoor Church, Madison**, is now available at [PrideAside.org](http://PrideAside.org), or by contacting Hutton at (601) 427-2428 or at [steve@prideaside.org](mailto:steve@prideaside.org). The book is also available at Amazon, iBooks, and Nook. Hutton is available to speak to church groups and other organizations.



The GA's of **GASTON CHURCH, BOONEVILLE**, recently learned about the Edwina Robinson offering, learning about Camp Garaywa, the Baptist Nursing Fellowship, retired missionaries and missionary kids who come back to the states for college. Twenty-one girls participated.

**CALVARY CHURCH, SUMMIT**, held their 3rd annual tea, a fundraiser for Women on Mission. The Girls in Action and Mission Friends acted as waitresses. Lorene Sanders, speaker; Vanessa King, music; Bobbie Dunaway, W.O.M. director; Mike Burns, pastor. Shown are Sanders with the GA's and Mission Friends.



**BEULAH CHURCH, DECATUR**, held a baby dedication May 10. Pictured left to right is Justin and Suzanne Gressett with their nephew, Espr Cooper Lofton; Jared and Kristan Lanier with their daughter Maci Claire Lanier and big brother, Gavin; and Alexander and Rachel Lee with their son, Henry Alexander Lee. They were presented with engraved Bibles, certificates of dedication and a rose.

## Celebrate the **SMALL STRONG** CONGREGATION

**SEPTEMBER 24, 2015**  
First Baptist Church, Jackson

### YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS!



Jim Futrol,  
Executive  
Director, Treasurer  
MCBC

You need to mark the date on your calendar and make plans to come and be ready to be blessed. In Mississippi, we have no little churches. Just ahead is the date that we are going to gather together and celebrate the small strong congregations across Mississippi. In one of our sister Southern states, the state government has an ad campaign that says in their state, "Small business is big business." In Mississippi, our strong small churches are big Kingdom business. Mark it down.

**Plenary: Dr. Chuck Lawless**

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Text "SmallStrong" to 313131

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To Register:  
[www.mbc.org/smallstrong](http://www.mbc.org/smallstrong)